Supply of water for second crop irrigation under "closed channels".

* 1449 Q.—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, with reference to the answer to question No. 902 answered on the 29th November 1928 regarding supply of water for second crop irrigation under "closed channels" in the East Godavari district—

(a) whether the report referred to in the answer has been received and whether the Government have passed orders thereon; and

(b) if so, whether the same will be placed on the Council table?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) It is laid on the table.[a]

Extension of the Mettur Project to districts other than Tanjore.

* 1450 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state the latest developments in the scheme for extending the benefits of the Mettur Irrigation Project to districts other than Tanjore?

A.—So far as the Salem district is concerned, the Government have issued orders in G.O. No. 1 I., dated 2nd January 1929, appointing a special staff to investigate the scheme afresh. These orders have been placed on the Editors' table. As regards the Coimbatore district, the only feasible way is to connect up the late Mr. Moss's West Side channel with the reservoir. A fairly accurate estimate has already been prepared for the scheme. It shows that in order that the scheme might be productive a water-rate of Rs. 27 per acre would have to be levied. This is on the basis of the sanctioned estimate for the Mettur Project, viz., Rs. 612 lakhs. The revised estimate is Rs. 737 lakhs, and consequently the water-rate to be levied might have to be increased further. In the Trichinopoly district, it is proposed to investigate, *inter alia*, the following two schemes:—

(i) the High Level Channel scheme to branch off from the South Bank canal and the maximum extent that can be brought under irrigation in that area, and

(ii) the restoration of the old course of the Uyyakondan channel Extension of irrigation in this district will depend on the results of the investigation for which a subdivision has been sanctioned with effect from 1st February 1929.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"May I enquire whether there will be a reduction of the area that will be irrigated in Tanjore district, if the Mettur Project is extended to Salem and Coimbatore districts?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"Yes, Sir, unless an improvement can be effected by Cauveri water."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"If there is reduction of the area in Tanjore district, may I know whether there would be any possibility of the water-rate being increased in respect of the lands in Salem and Coimbatore?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"Yes, because the works necessary to supply water to these areas cost us very much."

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[a] Printed as Appendix VII on pages 109–111 infra.

25th February 1929]

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" It is stated that the revised estimate is Rs. 737 lakhs, and that, consequently, the water-rate to be levied might have to be increased further. May I ask whether, in view of the fact that there will be decrease in the area to be irrigated in the Tanjore district, the Government still consider that there will be a possibility of the rates being increased beyond the present estimated rate of Rs. 27 per acre ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" It is only a possibility if the scheme is found practicable."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government have considered the possibility of irrigating lands in Bhavani taluk by Cauveri water ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" That is one of the schemes that has been estimated for."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if the proposal is to dig a channel from the reservoir on the western side ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I believe so; if the hon. Member wants correct information, I should like the hon. Member to give me notice."

Repairs to old and leaky tanks in Coimbatore district.

*1451 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received a copy of the resolution of the Ryots' Sangam of Coimbatore, dated 1st February 1928, regarding the repair of old and leaky tanks and whether in reply they sent an endorsement, dated 19th February 1928, that the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) would be asked to make a report regarding the same ; and

(b) whether the Government have received the Chief Engineer's report on the matter and if so, whether it will be placed on the table of the House ?

A.—(a) A copy of the resolution passed at a meeting of the District Ryots' Sangam of Coimbatore held on 29th October 1927 and 8th February 1928, was received through the Honorary Secretary of the Sangam, M.R.Ry. V. C. Vellingiri Goundar Avargal. In an endorsement, dated 19th March 1928, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation was asked to report on resolution No. 3 of the Sangam regarding the repair of old and leaky tanks, etc., and a copy of this endorsement was communicated to Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Goundar.

(b) The Superintending Engineer's report with its enclosure forwarded by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) is laid on the table.[a] A further reference has been made to the Collector on the subject of the minor irrigation tanks mentioned in the Executive Engineer's letter. The resluicing of the Tadepalli and Arkenkotah channels is in abeyance until the results of the experiments on duty, absorption, etc., to be conducted in the Vaniputhur branch of the Arkenkotah channel are known. The Chief Engineer's proposals in this regard have been referred to the Board of Revenue for report.

[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 111-112 infra.